



STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 83720
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

TOM LUNA
STATE SUPERINTENDENT
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

September 26, 2008

TO: Superintendents, Principals, Business Managers, Charter School Administrators, Title I Directors, Special Education Directors, Testing Coordinators, Technology Coordinators and Public Information Officers

FROM: Tom Luna, Superintendent of Public Instruction

RE: Weekly E-Newsletter

IN THIS REPORT:

- **Governor announces 1-percent holdback**
- **Reminder: Idaho Teacher of the Year Program Applications due**
- **Schools can participate in Lincoln Bicentennial Celebration**
- **Superintendent's Schedule**
- **What's New**
- **Reminders**
- **Upcoming Deadlines**

GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES 1-PERCENT HOLDBACK (GO TO TOP)

Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter ordered a 1-percent state budget holdback for FY 2009 on Friday. The holdback was announced in response to forecasts indicating revenue may fall more than \$174 million below what was projected last winter. The FY 2009 Public Schools Budget will be held harmless because the estimated \$14.1 million shortfall will be covered by the Public Education Stabilization Fund.

"Idaho public schools will be held harmless because the financial shortfall will be covered by the Public Education Stabilization Fund," said Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna. "I am grateful to the Idaho Legislature for creating this fund and depositing enough money in recent years to help local schools during these tough economic times. Still, I encourage all local schools to look at current spending and ensure they are spending every taxpayer dollar efficiently and effectively, especially now."

The 1-percent holdback will affect the State Department of Education budget by about \$47,100 in FY 2009. Because of efficiencies Superintendent Luna has found in the agency budget since he took office 20 months ago, the Department will be able to absorb this holdback and still maintain the same level of customer service and technical assistance we provide to Idaho schools and the customers of education.

For more information on the Governor's announcement, please visit www.dfm.idaho.gov and click under the "What's New" section.

REMINDER: IDAHO TEACHER OF THE YEAR PROGRAM APPLICATIONS DUE (GO TO TOP)



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Applications for the Idaho Teacher of the Year Program are due **September 30, 2008**. Please encourage your teachers to submit their Teacher of the Year applications soon. Program information and applications are available at http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/teacher_of_year/. Please note that the national application is the same as the state application.

Applications should be mailed to:
State Department of Education
ATTN: Melissa McGrath
PO Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0027

If you have any questions, please contact Melissa McGrath at (208) 332-6818 or MRMcGrath@sde.idaho.gov.

SCHOOLS CAN PARTICIPATE IN LINCOLN BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION (GO TO TOP)

In conjunction with the Idaho Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, the Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna wants to invite schools across Idaho to participate in recognizing the 200th birthday of our Sixteenth President through a variety of programs. To see a full list of activities and to download materials, please visit http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/social_studies/.

Here are some of the ways in which schools can participate:

Collect Pennies for Lincoln

The oldest Lincoln monument in the western United States will be moved from Fort Boise to a position of prominence and honor in front of the Idaho Statehouse. The "Pennies for Lincoln" fund drive for elementary school students in Idaho will fund the dismantling, conservation, transport, and dedication of the statue of "Lincoln the Emancipator" in time for his 200th birthday on February 12, 2009. A new bronze plaque will recognize the public school contributors. All elementary school principals should receive a letter in the mail before October 1 detailing how each classroom can take part in this fund drive. Materials are also posted on the Web site.

Abraham Lincoln Essay Contest

Idaho students are encouraged to submit an essay and compete to win recognition and monetary prizes in a statewide Lincoln Bicentennial essay contest on the topic of "Abraham Lincoln's Vision of Liberty." Details about the essay contest were mailed to schools across the state in September. Materials are also posted on the Web site.

Lesson Plans Available

Please visit the Idaho Lincoln Bicentennial Commission official website at <http://lincolnbicentennial.idaho.gov> for numerous Lincoln lesson plan activities for all grade levels.

Teacher Seminars on Lincoln



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The State Department of Education is sponsoring a number of in-depth Lincoln seminars for educators that will be available throughout the bicentennial year, including "Lincoln and the Constitution" on March 11, 2009 in Idaho Falls.

View the Lincoln Traveling Museum Exhibit

The "Lincoln and Idaho" traveling exhibit will be available for display in your school district for appropriate periods between March 2, 2008 and December 1, 2009. With freestanding panel displays and original artifacts in cases, introduced by relevant texts, it celebrates the life and achievements of our Sixteenth President and his amazing relationship with Idaho Territory which he created in 1863. Please contact the Idaho Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission at (208) 342-0000 to coordinate events.

SUPERINTENDENT'S SCHEDULE (GO TO TOP)

- Superintendent Luna will attend the Governor's Capital for a Day on Monday, September 29 in Homedale.
- Superintendent Luna will speak at the awards banquet of the Idaho Science Teachers Association and Idaho Council of Math Teachers collaborative fall conference on Thursday, October 2 in the evening in Idaho Falls.
- Superintendent Luna will speak at the Indian Education Summit at 8:45 a.m. on Friday, October 3 in Boise.
- Superintendent Luna will speak at the Idaho Council for History Education State Social Sciences Conference at noon on Friday, October 3 in Boise.

WHAT'S NEW (GO TO TOP)

- **Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Grants** -- Congratulations to the 30 Idaho elementary schools that were awarded Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program grants to provide healthy and nutritious snacks throughout the school day. The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program is part of an initiative by U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to offer schools a wider variety of fresh produce than would be available through normal USDA programs, such as the National School Lunch Program. The goal of this program is to create healthier school environments by providing healthier food choices, expanding the variety of fruits and vegetables children experience, increasing children's fruit and vegetable consumption and making a difference in children's diets to impact their present and future health. For a full list of schools that received the awards, please visit www.sde.idaho.gov and click under "Latest News."
- **Reminder about Fingerprinting** -- Idaho law requires that all certificated and non-certificated employees hired on or after July 1, 2008, and other individuals who are required by the provisions of Idaho Code 33-130 to undergo a criminal history check shall submit a completed ten (10) finger fingerprint card or scan to the State Department of Education no later than five (5) days following the first day of employment or unsupervised contact with students in a K-12 setting, whichever is sooner.
- **New payment process Background Records Office** -- The State Department of Education has approved a new payment process for the Background Records Office, which is designed to assist the districts in meeting the five-



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day submission requirement. The new process allows a district to make advance deposits to cover fingerprinting to the Background Records Office. As fingerprints are received from the district, the processing fees will be subtracted from the balance of the prepaid account. Districts will be notified when the account is getting low on funds. For more information, please contact Shannon Haas at the Department at (208) 332-6888 SHHaas@sde.idaho.gov or Cathi Day (208)332-6883 at CJDay@sde.idaho.gov.

- **Virtues Conference 2008** -- Northwest Nazarene University and the Idaho ASCD invite teachers, counselors and administrators to participate in the Virtues conference, which will be held November 20-21, 2008 on the NNU campus in Nampa. Inspiring speakers and founders of The Virtues Project Linda Kavelin Popov and Dr. Dan Popov will help you create a school environment that includes: student leadership, stress reduction for test fatigue, creating an environment for academic excellence, a 90-day plan for positive change and ways to transform classroom and school violence to virtues. To find out more about and to register for the conference go to <http://www.nnu.edu/virtues>.
- **RtI Survey** -- Educators are encouraged to take a few minutes and fill out the online survey about Response to Intervention in your school and district. It is open to anyone who works with children in our schools. Your input is valued and important and will give us needed information about your level of implementation and requirements in regards to RtI. Visit <http://survey.idahotc.com/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=180L459> to fill out the survey. The survey will close on **October 3, 2008**.
- **C-SPAN video competition** -- C-SPAN is now accepting entries for the C-SPAN "StudentCam" national video documentary competition, which is open to middle school and high school students (grades 6-12). This year C-SPAN asks students to create a 5- to 8-minute video documentary that addresses an issue of national significance. Students must present more than one point of view and include C-SPAN video in their documentary. C-SPAN is awarding a total of \$50,000 in cash prizes, and the top winning videos will air on C-SPAN, and can be viewed at www.studentcam.org. The deadline to enter is Inauguration Day -- **January 20, 2009**. For more information, please visit www.studentcam.org. If you have any questions, e-mail emartin@c-span.org or call (800) 523-7586.
- **National Geographic Bee** -- Each year thousands of schools in the United States participate in the National Geographic Bee, a contest designed to encourage teachers to include geography in their classrooms, spark student interest in the subject, and increase public awareness about geography. Principals of schools with any of the grades 4-8 are eligible to register their schools to receive contest materials for a school-level Bee. Heads of home school associations may register to receive contest materials to arrange a Bee. For complete information on the Bee, visit www.nationalgeographic.com/geographicbee. Official registration normally ends **October 15, 2008**. The 2009 Idaho State Geographic Bee will be at Boise State University on Friday, April 3, 2009, and the National Geographic Bee on May 19-20, 2009 in Washington, D.C. For information about the Idaho Geographic Bee, please contact David Wilkins, Idaho State Geographic Bee Coordinator at dwilkins@boisestate.edu.
- **Education News Parents Can Use** -- The U.S. Department of Education hosts a regular TV series about ways to ensure children's educational success. The next "Education News Parents Can Use" broadcast, focusing on safeguarding America's colleges, is scheduled for October 21, 2008 (8 p.m. ET). For more information, please visit <http://www.ed.gov/edtv/>.



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PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

- **ABCTE Recruitment Fair** -- The American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence, or ABCTE, is hosting a recruitment fair from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, September 27, 2008 at the Red Lion Hotel Boise Downtowner, 1800 Fairview Ave in Boise. At the fair, individuals can learn about the ABCTE program, which helps professionals change careers and become a certified teacher in Idaho. If you hold a Bachelor's degree, you can become a certified teacher within a year. Sessions are free and open to the public. The last session begins at 1 p.m. For more information, please visit www.abcte.org.

REMINDERS (GO TO TOP)

- **ASVAB** -- The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) program is one way to help students identify a future career path. The ASVAB program is a comprehensive career exploration and planning program that includes a multiple-aptitude test battery, interest inventory and various career planning tools designed to help the student explore the world of work. The program is free of charge. Please consider using ASVAB in your school or school district. For more information, you can contact: David Hodson, at (208) 334-1450 ext. 213 or david.a.hodson@mepcom.army.mil or Colleen Owen at (208) 334-1450 ext.214 or colleen.owen@mepcom.army.mil. Schools in Northern Idaho, north of New Meadows should call Fred Bernize at (509) 353 3105 ext. 242 or fred.bernize@mepcom.army.mil.
- **School Garden Grant available** – Grants of between \$1,500 to \$3,000 are available to schools that want to implement school fruit/vegetable gardens to teach nutrition and other school curriculum. Studies show school gardens can have a positive impact on students' food choices as well as provide an opportunity to provide hands on learning in many curricular areas. Any Idaho school participating in the USDA's National School Breakfast or Lunch Program is eligible. For more information or to apply, please visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/cnp/>. Applications are due **October 10, 2008**. If you have questions, please contact Heidi Martin, Child Nutrition Coordinator, at (208) 332-6827 or HCMartin@sde.idaho.gov.
- **Indian Education Summit** -- The Sixth Annual Idaho Indian Education Summit, titled "Connecting to Improve: Native American Education in Idaho" will be held October 2-3, 2008 at the Owyhee Plaza in Boise. To register, please visit http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/native_american/. If you have questions, please contact Alisa Garcia at AGarcia@sde.idaho.gov or (208)332-6969.
- **Credit for Special Olympics course** – Northwest Nazarene University is offering graduate credit for all educators who teach the 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games K-12 curriculum, which has been mailed to all public and private Idaho schools. The course, titled Ed 550 Education to Make a Difference, is designed as a learning team, essentially an independent study where educators teach a series of three concise and engaging K-12 lessons about valuing diversity through involvement with the Special Olympics. To register, please visit <https://www.nnu.edu/cereg>.
- **Spanish for working professionals** – Northwest Nazarene University Center for Professional Development is offering "Introduction to Spanish for the Working Professional," a course designed to introduce working professionals to the fundamentals of cross-cultural communication and establish strong speaking, reading, listening and writing skills in Spanish. Online registration and more information can be found at www.nnu.edu/pdcourses or by calling (208) 467-8495.



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- **Early Years 2008 conference** – The Early Years 2008 conference will be held November 18-19, 2008 at Boise State University for parents and early childhood professionals from an array of disciplines. The conference will highlight the many interrelated aspects of growth that impact a child's development. For more information or to register, please visit www.idahochild.org.
- **Update District Contact Information** – With the start of a new school year, we at the State Department of Education want to ensure important communications from the Department are reaching you! Please help us by updating your school district's information in the Idaho District Contact Information (IDCI) database at http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/data_collection.htm. If you need assistance updating your information in IDCI, please refer to a step-by-step instruction guide posted on this Web page.
- **Project Learning Tree workshops** – Project Learning Tree (PLT)/Idaho is offering a semester of professional development opportunities for teachers. Each workshop is available for one graduate level professional education credit (for recertification and pay-scale movement) from a choice of universities – \$60. To enroll, send \$20 workshop fee per workshop (NOTE: Focus on Lit is \$25) to PLT at 350 N 9th St., #304, Boise ID 83702. Indicate the workshop(s) you wish to attend, and provide your contact information. We'll send you a memo with workshop details. Visit <http://www.idahoforests.org/plt1.htm> to see a full list of workshops.
- **Curricular Materials Caravan** – The Curricular Materials Caravan will start traveling throughout the state in October for newly approved math and professional-technical education materials. Please visit http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/meetings_events/ to learn more and to view dates and locations of the Caravan.
- **America's Legislators Back to School Program** – America's Legislators Back to School Program gives elected officials in Idaho the opportunity to meet personally with their young constituents and to answer questions, share ideas, listen to concerns and impart a greater understanding of the legislative processes necessary for developing knowledgeable citizens. The program is available throughout the school year. Contact Idaho State Coordinator, Jeannine Wood at jwood@senate.state.id.us or (208) 332-1309, to participate.
- **Accreditation trainings** – The Idaho Northwest Accreditation Association will be hosting regional administrator trainings during the month of September. These meetings will be hosted by your Regional Northwest Accreditation Committee Members and Coordinators. For a full listing of dates, times and locations in each region, please visit http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/meetings_events/. If you have any questions, or for more information, please contact Cheryl Charlton, Idaho NAAS Executive Secretary, at execsec@northwestaccreditation.org or by calling (208) 830-1777.
- **Introduction to Service Learning** – The State Department of Education's Learn and Serve program is hosting a Webinar about service learning from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. (MT) on October 2, 2008 and 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. (MT) on October 3, 2008. To access the session, please visit http://67.202.210.70/launcher.cgi?room=SDE_Innovation. The Webinar is open to anyone interested in service learning for grades K-12. If you have questions, please contact Learn and Serve Coordinator Cheryl Kary at (208) 332-6913 or CMKary@sde.idaho.gov.
- **Secretary of State offers opportunity for 17-year-old students** – In Idaho, if a student is 17 years old and a U.S. citizen, they can serve as a poll worker on Election Day. Please visit <http://www.idahovotes.gov/Clerk.htm> to find



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TOM LUNA
STATE SUPERINTENDENT
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

out how you can contact your local county clear and ask for more information. Student poll workers are paid for their time.

- **Register for School Improvement webinars** – Webinars are available for Title I schools and districts that have been identified for school improvement Alert, Year 1, Year 2, Corrective Action, or Restructuring based on the Spring 2008 ISAT scores. Please visit <http://csi.boisestate.edu/sessionregistration.htm> to register or to learn more. If you have questions, please contact Katherine Weatherspoon at the (208) 426-4852.
- **2008 Idaho Student Mock Election** – Secretary of State Ben Ysursa invites your high school to participate in the 2008 Idaho Student Mock Election. This online voting exercise has been developed in cooperation with the State Department of Education to instill an appreciation and importance of voting in Idaho's young people. The goal of the program is to provide an active voting experience for high school students across the state. Any high school government class is welcome to participate by using school computers during the mock election. The 2008 Idaho Student Mock Election will be available for two days only: Thursday, October 23 and Friday, October 24. For more details, please visit <http://www.sos.idaho.gov/isme/ISMEIndex.jsp>. To participate, please e-mail a list of interested teachers and their school email addresses to isme@sos.idaho.gov or contact the SOS directly at (208) 334-2852.

UPCOMING DEADLINES (GO TO TOP)

- **Sept. 30, 2008** – The deadline to submit the FICA Match Report for the 2007-2008 school year. This covers July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008. The cover letter and the report form are available online at www.sde.idaho.gov/site/cnp/statistics_finance.htm. Completed reports should be faxed to Ken Lang at (208) 334-2228. If you wish to e-mail the report, send it to KPLang@sde.idaho.gov, but please remember to include the required signature. If you have any questions, please contact Ken Lang at (208) 332-6858 or KPLang@sde.idaho.gov.
- **Sept. 30, 2008** – The deadline to submit nominations for Idaho Teacher of the Year to the State Department of Education. Applications for the 2009 Idaho Teacher of the Year are now available on the State Department of Education's Web site at www.sde.idaho.gov/TeacheroftheYear. Please note that the Idaho Teacher of the Year application is the same as the application for the National Teacher of the Year.
- **Sept. 30, 2008** – The deadline for school districts and charter schools to submit the 2007-2008 Transportation Reimbursement Claim form. The Transportation Reimbursement Claim form and supporting documents may be found at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/transportation/> and click on Access Reports. If you have any questions, please contact Lanette Daw at (208) 332-6851 or Ldaw@sde.idaho.gov.
- **Oct. 3, 2008** – The deadline for school districts and charter schools to submit the first 2008-2009 Bus Ridership Count. The Bus Ridership Count will report the number of eligible students riding school buses during the week of September 15 – 19, 2008. The Bus Ridership Count form and supporting documents may be found at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/transportation/> and click on Access Reports. If you have any questions, please contact Lanette Daw at (208) 332-6851 or Ldaw@sde.idaho.gov.



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PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

- **Oct. 15, 2008** – The deadline for school districts to submit the Annual Title I-A Comparability Report. This is an annual requirement for all Districts. The forms can be found at http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/title_one/#annual_reports and must be submitted as email attachments and sent to Susan Hansen at SCHansen@sde.idaho.gov. Minor changes have been made to the forms; if there are questions please contact Susan at (208) 332-6900.
- **Oct. 15, 2008** – The deadline for schools to let the Idaho Commission on the Arts they are interested in participating in the statewide Poetry Out Loud competition, which will culminate in a state final on February 21, 2009 in Boise. Poetry Out Loud was created by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation and is administered by the state art agencies of all 50 states. Schools can fax or e-mail their commitments to the Idaho Commission on the Arts at (208) 334-2488 or e-mail intern@arts.idaho.gov.
- **Oct. 20, 2008** – The deadline for schools or districts to submit a Letter of Intent to apply for FY2011 Safe Routes to School (SR2S) program funds. SR2S projects may include engineering solutions and must include education, enforcement, encouragement and evaluation efforts. Eligible applicants may be state or local governmental and/or non-profit organizations. For more information, visit www.itd.idaho.gov/srts/howtoapply.html.
- **Oct. 24, 2008** – The deadline for submissions in the 2008 Holiday Card Contest. Each year, the State Department of Education sponsors a Holiday Card contest to draw attention to art programs in Idaho's elementary schools. One drawing is selected for the Department's holiday greeting. The child who submits the selected artwork receives cards for his or her own use. Visit www.sde.idaho.gov and click on "Holiday Card Contest" under the Latest News heading to learn more.
- **Oct. 29, 2008** – The deadline to enter the Idaho State Historical Society's photography contest to recognize Idaho Archaeology and Historic Preservation Month. Idaho Archaeology and Historic Preservation Month will highlight the work of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in Idaho. The submitted image should show a WPA project, demonstrate the success of the WPA, speak to the magnitude of the WPA, and/or illustrate its importance in Idaho. The competition is open to Idaho high school and college students. For more information, please visit www.idahohistory.net or contact Shelby Day at (208) 334-3847 ext. 109 or shelby.day@ishs.idaho.gov.
- **Oct. 31, 2008** – The deadline for school districts and charter schools to submit the 2007-2008 IFARMS Annual Financial Report as required by Idaho Code 33-701(7). The IFARMS Annual Financial Report forms and supporting documents can be found at http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/finance_tech/ifarms_forms.htm. If you have any questions, please contact Julie Oberle at (208) 332-6840 or JAOberle@sde.idaho.gov.
- **Oct. 31, 2008** – The deadline to submit materials for the U.S. Senate Youth Program. Each year, two outstanding student leaders from Idaho are selected as delegates to the program where they will travel to Washington, D.C. with all expenses paid and view their federal government in action, meet with national leaders on Capitol Hill, at the White House, the Supreme Court, the Pentagon and the State Department. Each student also receives a one-time \$5,000 undergraduate college scholarship from the William Randolph Hearst Foundation. If you have any questions, please contact Amanda Salazar at (208) 332-6974.
- **Nov. 3, 2008** – The deadline to submit applications for the third annual BubbleWrap® Competition for Young Inventors, sponsored by the Sealed Air Corporation and The National Museum of Education. The contest is open to



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TOM LUNA
STATE SUPERINTENDENT
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

students in grades 5-8. This innovative contest incorporates national and state academic standards in the fields of engineering design, problem-solving, entrepreneurship and all of the core curricular subjects. Visit www.nmoe.org for more details about the competition. Applications may be received via hard copy mail, email or FAX. If you have further questions, please contact the National Museum of Education at info@nmoe.org or (330) 376-8300.

- **Nov. 7, 2008** – The deadline for elementary schools to apply for a chance to receive one of ten \$15,000 grants from the makers of Hidden Valley® Salad Dressings. Each grant award will support an elementary school in developing a program offering fresh vegetables and fruits lasting through the 2009-10 school year. Each school grant will consist of \$15,000 in direct funding, and a one-time donation of Hidden Valley® Original Ranch® Light Dressing. Funding must be spent on any of the following: Fresh produce, a vegetable station, kitchen equipment, program staffing, nutrition education supplies and/or training. All proposals must be submitted online at www.LoveYourVeggiesGrants.org.
- **Nov. 10, 2008** – The deadline for school districts and charter schools to submit the 2007-2008 Independent Audit Report. Idaho Code 33-701(6), which requires submission of the independent audit report, was modified during the 2008 Legislative Session. Not only was the due date changed from October 15 to November 10, but penalties for late submission were also added. If the SDE has not received your report on or before November 10, your November 15 foundation payment may be withheld until the report is received. Please work with your auditor and school board to ensure submission prior to November 10. If you have any questions, please contact Julie Oberle at (208) 332-6840 or JAOberle@sde.idaho.gov.
- **Nov. 14, 2008 -- The deadline to apply for the** National Excellence in Urban Education Award. The award recognizes the dedication and talent of urban school educators and students, provides a benchmark of excellence that motivates reform efforts and deepens the knowledge base of best practices for promoting urban school transformation. For more information or to apply, please visit <http://www.ncust.org>.
- **Nov. 28, 2008** – The deadline to enter into the Council for America's First Freedom's 16th annual First Freedom Student Competition. The competition is a national essay contest that offers students in grades 9-12 an opportunity to compete for a \$3,000, \$1,500 or \$750 award as they examine the First Amendment and the history and relevance of religious freedom in America and the world today. For more information on this competition, please visit www.firstfreedom.org. Registration is due by Monday, November 24, 2008, and the postmark entry deadline is November 28, 2008.
- **Jan. 30, 2009** – The Idaho Dropout Summit has been scheduled at the Nampa Civic Center in Nampa. More details to come.